(c) and (d) RINL/VSP with a capacity of 3.0 MT of liquid steel per annum was fully commissioned in August, 1992. As per the directions of Govt. the company has engaged a consultant to study the turnaround strategies and revival plan for long term viability of the company which includes the expansion of the plant to 4.0 million tonnes stage and its report is under consideration of the Govt.

In SAIL, modernisation work has been taken up in its 3 units viz. Durgapur Steel Plant (DSP), Rourkela Steel Plant (RSP) and Bokaro Steel Plant (BSP).

Liberalisation package for mining sector

892. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering liberalisation package for mining sector empowering the state Governments to grant concessions for areas not compact or cotinuous in respect of minerals in part C of schedule 1 of the MMRD Act and to give more thrust to development activities rather than regulations/setting up of full time administrative tribunal for revision of cases and strengthening of provisions for curbing illegal mining;

(b) if so, the details of the reform package formulated/finalised/approved;

(c) the details regarding possible impact of the reform package; and

(d) the details of legislative changes proposed for Acts governing mining activities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS): (a) to (d) Yes Sir. The Central Government constituted a Committee under the Chairmanship of the then Secretary, Ministry of Mines, Government of India with Mining Secretaries of State Governments of Orissa, Rajasthan, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Gujarat, Assam and Himachal Pradesh, Secretary General, Federation of Indian Mineral Industries and Controller General, Indian Bureau of Mines etc. as members. The terms of reference of the Committee inter-alia, included review of the existing laws and procedures governing regulation and development of minerals and to recommend steps to make them compatible with the policy changes and to suggest steps to reduce delays in grant/renewal of prospecting licences/mining leases. The Committee was also to consider and suggest further delegation of power to the State Governments regarding grant/renewal of prospecting licences/mining leases and measures to be taken to prevent illegal mining. The Committee has submitted its report to the Government which, inter-alia include recommendations for delegation of powers to the State Governments to relax the requirement of mineral concessions being in compact and contiguous areas, shift in the balance of the Act and rules framed threunder from being regulatory to developmental in nature, introduction of measures for expediting disposal of revision cases and strengthening the penal provisions for curbing illegal mining. Further necessary action for amendment in the Mines and Minerals (Regulation & Development) Act, and Rules made thereunder has already been initiated.

Losses of Balco

893. SHRI BHAGABAN MAJHI: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Bharat Aluminium Company (BALCO) has been running in loss;

(b) if so, the year since when the above company is running at loss; and

(c) the factors responsible therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS): (a) No Sir, Bharat Aluminium Company Limited has not incurred any losses since 1987-88.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.